



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Memorandum

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To: Arthur-Jean Williams, Chief
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Subject: Effects Determination for Azinphos Methyl for Pacific Anadromous Salmonids

We reviewed data and other information for azinphos methyl, an organophosphate insecticide named by the Washington Toxics Coalition (WTC) and included in the court order for 'effects determinations' and potential consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Azinphos methyl is registered nationally for use on a variety of fruits and nuts, along with several vegetables and non-crop sites; some of these are being phased out in 2005. The Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED) completed an environmental risk assessment in July, 1999 for incorporation into a Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) dated October 30, 2001. The assessment concludes that levels of concern are exceeded for endangered freshwater fish and populations of aquatic invertebrates exposed to runoff and drift from agricultural treatment sites. We have adapted the more general findings of the EFED assessment to develop an analysis of the potential for effects on endangered and threatened Pacific salmon and steelhead Evolutionary Significant Units (ESUs) from current uses in California and the Pacific Northwest.

Based on the environmental risk assessment and additional considerations indicated in our analysis and other attached or referenced materials, we conclude that the use of azinphos methyl may affect 25 salmon and steelhead ESUs and will have no effect on one ESU. Our determinations are based on the known or potential use of azinphos methyl on crops within habitats and migration corridors of each ESU, the high acute risk of azinphos methyl to endangered fish, and the potential for indirect effects due to acute and chronic risks to their aquatic invertebrate food supply.

attachments